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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,350	04/29/2004	Paul F. Lewis	JD-292	3349

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EXAMINER

PETRUNCIO, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Response to Arguments

Claims 1-25 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for "concrete", does not reasonably provide enablement for a "soiled porous surface".

1. Applicant's arguments in reply to the rejection under 35 USA 112 re scope of enablement and in support of the amendments to the claims filed December 9, 2004 in response to the outstanding Office Action have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As to the rejection under 112, the subject specification discloses the admittedly prior art use of an alkaline cleaner [0010] to maintain concrete surfaces and the use of a commercial cleaner disclosed as "3N1 Floor Cleaner concentrate from 3M Corp" is further cited as suitable for use as a subject maintainer composition [0040] for a "floor surface" or "porous surface", the only specification disclosure and/or example given for such surface being a concrete surface. Applicant's arguments do not stand as a surrogate for evidence that a subject porous surface can be construed as, for example, a wood surface. The rejection is maintained.

2. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat. 5,656,683 to Ruggiero et al further in view of US 2002/0065355 to Terasse et al.

Applicant's have amended the claims to require removing excess maintainer composition from the surface. However, the term "excess" is relative and nowhere defined in the specification and applicant's argue that "at no time is the maintainer composition allowed to form a dried film on the surface... ". However, the specification discloses that ... "any excess maintainer is then rinsed and removed from the surface.. then allowed to dry [0015] Furthermore, it is noted that that " a maintainer composition is applied to the surface 2 and creates a uniform film 8 as seen in Figure 4" [0030] and that the maintainer composition can include "pore-filling components" such as waxes, resins or polymers [0038] which are construed by the Examiner as consistent with allowing for a residual "uniform film 8" as described by instant Fig 4. Essentially, it is held that Applicants' arguments are inconsistent with the instant specification's disclosure; no patentable distinction is seen over the prior art. The outstanding rejections are maintained.

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

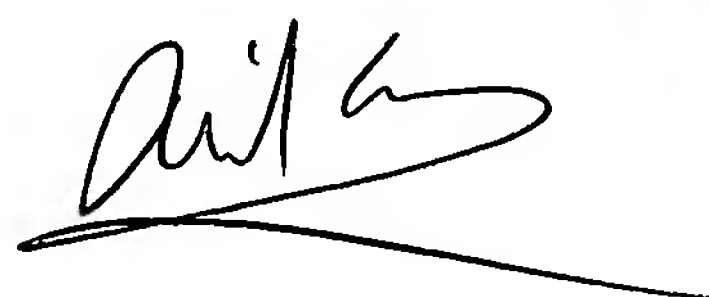
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M Petruncio whose telephone number is 571-272-1323. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:30Am-7:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571-272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

John M. Petruncio
February 22, 2005

MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER



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